

Remarks

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

At the outset, the undersigned and Jeff Pade would like to express appreciation to Examiner Willse for his time and attention extended during the personal interview conducted on May 6, 2004.

As was discussed during the interview, several of the independent claims have been amended to clarify that the elongate portion does not have a mesh construction. As the Examiner agreed during the interview, amended claims 1-14 and 27 are patentably distinguishable over U.S. Patent No. 5,876,445 to Andersen et al. ("Andersen"). Newly added claims 36-37 are patentably distinguishable over Andersen for similar reasons.

The remaining independent claims have been amended to clarify that the coil portion is sized and configured to be collapsed under radial compression from the intramural tunnel. As the Examiner agreed during the interview, amended claims 15-26 and 28 are patentably distinguishable over Andersen.

New independent claim 29 recites that the elongate portion does not have a coiled construction. As the Examiner agreed during the interview, newly added claims 29-35 are patentably distinguishable over Andersen.

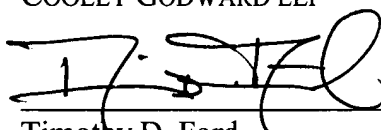
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Dated: MAY 24, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,
COOLEY GODWARD LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Ford', is written over a horizontal line.

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